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SOURCE Probleme Economice, 1951.PROBLEMS IN COLLECTIVIZATION OF AGRICULTURE IN RUMANIA

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Collectivization in the RPR (Rumanian People's Republic) is regarded as necessary because 53 percent of agricultural properties have an area of less than 3 hectares; many of these lack draft animals and essential equipment. Therefore, they are not capable of supplying sufficient quantities of agricultural products, and the land is not being utilized to its fullest capacity.

The problem of collectivization of agriculture is a very difficult one, but good progress is being made in increasing the number of collective farms and in mechanization. The Five-Year Plan provides for the production of 28,000 tractors and the manufacture of combines and agricultural machines. In August 1951, there were 5 million members of cooperatives, 1,070 agricultural collective organizations, and 3,500,000 individual estates of all types. SMT (machine-tractor stations) had 6,100 tractors. Of 3 million farm properties, only 1.3 million had plows and 1.8 million had no draft animals. (1) In general, the backwardness of individual private farms makes their yield much smaller than that of cooperatives and collectives.

The agricultural program is developing well. In 1949, the harvest was very successful. Increase in yield over 1948 was as follows: 46 percent more corn, 30 percent more barley, and 1.4 percent more oats. Fall plowing covered an 18 percent greater area. Fall crops were poor because of the drought, but spring production rose 36 percent, and the yield of plants for industrial use rose 48 percent. The harvest per hectare of corn, sugar beets, and barley increased. In 1949, SMT plowed 1,146,000 hectares, or 20 percent above the plan.

In 1950, the rate of collectivization and nationalization increased. Numerous stations were organized for the repair of farm equipment and for the drying and processing of seed. The number of SMT rose to 138, equipped with 6,100 tractors. Harvesting of grain required 21 days less, although the area of sowing was 23 percent larger than in 1949. The government eased taxes

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and levies of agricultural products. Farms with an annual income of less than 12,000 lei were excused entirely from the levy of agricultural products. Those with an income of more than 12,000 lei were required to deliver agricultural products in proportion to the size of the individual farm. In 1949, the volume of agricultural products levied as tax was reduced 31.5 percent over 1948. In 1951, this was adjusted so that payment could be made according to the fertility of the soil. For example, in very fertile areas, farms smaller than .5 hectare are excused from the levy, while those between .5 and 5 hectares turn in 70 to 250 kilograms of grain per hectare. Farms between 5 and 10 hectares give 300 to 530 kilograms. Those with an area of 10 to 50 hectares give 590 to 825 kilograms.

During 1951, the government of the RPR provided additional economic aid through grants of seed, draft animals, and long-term credits to poor individual properties. It also financed the organization of agricultural equipment repair stations. At the same time, the government pressed the campaign against rich landowners and other hostile elements. Nevertheless, rich landowners represent a strong economic element. They employed more than 200,000 agricultural workers. These kulaks hampered the effort of the government by concealing grain, by refusing to harvest all of their crops, and by reducing their farms to the status of medium-sized estates by giving part of their holdings to relatives. In 1951, the number of SMT's increased to 188. More than 6,000 tractors manufactured in the RPR, and Soviet cars, tractors, agricultural machinery and equipment, chemical fertilizer, and selected seed were made available to agriculture.

The chief instruments in the collectivization and nationalization of agriculture are the cooperatives and collectives. State agricultural farms covered an area of more than 800,000 hectares in 1951. Their average yield of grain per hectare was 51.6 percent greater in 1950 than in 1949. There are more than 5,000 consumer and processing cooperatives with approximately 5 million members in the entire country.

Two types of agricultural production cooperatives exist at present; the agricultural cooperative and the collective farm. The first type was formed for common cultivation of the land. This type of cooperative farm has developed as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No of Cooperatives</u>	<u>No of Members</u>	<u>Area (1,000 ha)</u>
1948	377	about 20	9
1949	1,952	102	150
1950	2,875	259	364
1951 (20 Mar)	3,465	over 300	about 400

At present, these cooperatives are organized on a temporary basis and operate only during seasons when there is agricultural work. The government is making every effort to establish these cooperatives on a permanent basis. Such organizations benefit by a 10-percent reduction in the levy of agricultural products. Through mutual collaboration they have obtained harvests far superior to those of private landowners. Thus, in Bucecea collectives harvested 9 quintals of grain more per hectare than individual landowners. In Lalosu, collectives obtained 16 quintals per hectare, while independent owners harvested 6 to 7.

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The second type of agricultural production cooperative is the collective farm. The first collective farms in the RPR were organized in July 1949. These farms own the land which they work. They have socialized labor and common agricultural equipment. Each family has an area of .25 to .5 hectare for private cultivation. Families may have a cow, poultry, a sow, and piglets. The production unit is called a brigade. Profits from the sale of products is divided among members in accordance with quality and quantity of work fulfillment. The number of collective farms rose from 56 in the summer and autumn of 1949 to 122 in the spring and 851 in the summer of 1950.

At the beginning of 1951, there were 1,029 collective farms which had incorporated 65,974 former small and medium farms. In August 1951, there were 1,100 collectives, 176 of which were more than one year old. The area operated by collectives is 268,000 hectares. Membership of collectives may be broken down as follows: 5.5 percent peasants who previously had no land, 62.5 percent former small farmers, and 32 percent former medium farmers.

In addition to general aids to agriculture, the RPR gives systematic aid to collectives and cooperatives. The state has given them 30 percent of their lands and 811 million lei for construction. In addition, the state granted agricultural machinery valued at 189 million lei and favorable credits totaling 733,000 lei. Additional grants of agricultural products were made on a credit basis. These included 15,000 tons of corn, approximately 2,000 tons of barley, rye, and oats, 2,000 tons of hay, 1,500 tons of concentrated feeds, 6,000 tons of straw, as well as other items. In addition, collectives and cooperatives received cement, iron, wood, corner tiles, boards, nails, and other items necessary for construction. They further benefited by a decree of the Council of Ministers providing for a 20-percent reduction in levy of agricultural products during their first year of activity.

Many of the collectives are becoming model farms. In 1950, collectives in Luna-de Jos, Santana, and Cenad obtained 30-32 quintals of grain per hectare. The Libertated Munci collective achieved 25 quintals. Collectives in Berveni, Muncelul-de-Sus, Selimbar, Harman, and Galicea produced 20 quintals per hectare. Collectives in Slobozia, Jeica, Batos, Paulesti, Piscolt, Zabrani, Livedea, Turnisor, and others, obtained an average of 15 to 20 quintals. The average yield per hectare of collectives was 40 percent higher than that of individually owned properties.(2)

Average production of grain throughout the country in 1951 was 13.5 quintals per hectare, or more than 65 percent above 1950 yield. The average of agricultural collectives as a whole was 20-30 quintals per hectare for the autumn harvest.(3)

Income from the sale of vegetables in collectives was as follows: in Turia, 2.5 million lei; Ion Corvin, 2 million lei; and Jeica, 1.5 million lei for vegetables, fruit, and flax. The Hosman collective received 977,000 lei for the sale of milk and wool. Some collectives have blacksmith shops, carpenter shops, wheelwright shops, rope-making shops, and other facilities. In some collectives, Stakhanovites perform the equivalent of 400 to 700 workdays a year.

The large Stefan Plavat collective, founded in Cenadul Mare in August 1949, provides an excellent example of a typical large-model grain collective. By 31 December 1950, a group of 193 individual properties was organized within the collective. Of these, 13 were farms previously worked by peasants who did not own their own land, 28 were former small farms, and 152 medium farms. The collective has 382 able-bodied workers, of whom approximately 75 percent are permanently occupied with the work of the collective. The collective has 973 hectares, of which 870 were donated by members and 103 by the state. Of

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the total, 841 hectares are devoted to plowing, 72 to gardening, 36 to hay, and 12 to animal and fruit raising. The collective has 18 milch cows, 15 sows with piglets, 300 fowl, and 30 beehives. There are six permanent brigades, composed of 30 teams. Each brigade has a production plan, and maintains weekly records of workdays per man. These figures are then entered in the record of each member and in the collective record of workdays.

In 1950, members of the collective performed 57,330 workdays of labor. Sales were relatively great. The permanent fund grew by 1,691,913 lei, the mutual-aid fund by 69,403 lei, and the cultural fund by 54,000 lei. At the end of the fiscal year, the collective had a reserve of 182,861 lei. Members received 4.8 kilograms of wheat, 3 kilograms of maize, .9 kilogram of potatoes, .4 kilograms of barley, 1 kilogram of rye, .2 kilogram of garlic, 8 kilograms of onions, 10 kilograms of straw, and 44 lei in cash, in exchange for labor performed. Average income of a family of four (three workers), including extras from the sale of privately produced items, is 164,000 lei per year. At the same time, the annual income of a medium landowner was 85,000 lei, that of a small landowner approximately 48,000 lei.

The average income of members of collectives is higher than that of independent landowners. The average annual income of the members of the Victoria collective in Lenuheim was 96,514 lei per year, that of a medium landowner in the same area, 51,075 lei, and that of a small landowner, 28,420 lei.

Individual collectives are becoming larger. Thus, for example, in Botiz, the number of members increased from 52 to 136, in Peches from 100 to 125, in Ion Corvin from 48 to 104. In Berveni and Madaras (Bihor), all agricultural workers have entered the collectives.

However, the process of collectivization has been criticized by the PMR (Rumanian Workers' Party). The party has pointed out the exaggerated methods used to attract peasants into collectives. The poor organization of new collectives and the use of force to make peasants enter existing collectives lead to the discrediting of the entire collective system. Peasants must be convinced, not coerced. Every mistake, every failure lends aid to the forces which oppose socialism. The specific mistakes which have been discovered in an examination of 176 cooperatives are: poor organization of labor, failure to follow the model set up by the state, failures in discipline, disregard of the system of rewards for accomplishment, lack of property, sales, and expense records, and the improper functioning and organization of brigades. The SMT have failed to fulfill contracts, or have performed work of poor quality. (2)

Another type of cooperative enterprise, the consumer cooperative, is concerned with the procurement of supplies necessary for agriculture. The distributing cooperatives collect and sell the products of agricultural production collectives and cooperatives. An analysis of the achievements and difficulties of consumer and distributing cooperatives may serve as a typical example of conditions found in other areas.

The following manufactured goods were received through cooperatives in the Iasi area in 1949 and 1950:

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<u>Product</u>	<u>1949</u> (million lei)	<u>1950</u> (million lei)	<u>Increase of 1950</u> <u>over 1949</u> (%)
Agricultural implements	316	650	230
Textile goods and footwear	646	859	134
Metal and chemical goods	242	304	125
Construction materials	60	135	225

Concurrently, village consumer cooperatives distributed goods worth 300 million lei in 1949, and goods worth 1,030,000,000 lei in 1950, including the following:

<u>Product</u>	<u>1949</u> (million lei)	<u>1950</u> (million lei)	<u>Increase of 1950</u> <u>over 1949</u> (%)
Agricultural implements	78	270	346
Textile goods and footwear	83	474	571
Metal and chemical goods	47	147	313
Construction materials	6	18	300

Regional cooperatives were active in acquiring agricultural products. The working peasantry sold through cooperatives 62 million lei's worth of surplus agricultural products in 1949 and 347 million's worth in 1950, including the following:

<u>Product</u>	<u>1949</u> (1,000 lei)	<u>1950</u> (1,000 lei)	<u>Increase of 1950</u> <u>over 1949</u> (%)
Wheat	1,572	7,049	650
Barley	1,360	2,261	166
Oats	896	1,039	116
Corn	984	6,578	470
Sunflower	489	8,531	1,740
Beans	4,814	12,428	297
Hay	3,083	24,000	800
Potatoes	2,147	19,750	940
Nuts	2,533	9,166	365
Eggs	7,058	40,188	572

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<u>Product</u>	<u>1949</u> (1,000 lei)	<u>1950</u> (1,000 lei)	<u>Increase of 1950</u> <u>over 1949</u> (%)
Fowl	2,145	6,552	312
Cattle			
Contracted	4,000	24,000	600
Acquired	3,579	36,916	1,050
Hogs			
Contracted	1,500	17,746	1,180
Acquired	13,719	73,887	566

Likewise, vegetables, fresh fruit, milk, wax, lard, lambs, sheep, fresh fish, etc., were sold through cooperatives.

To assure better service to consumers, to improve the circulation of goods, and to assure a better market for agricultural products acquired from the peasantry, the number of distributing cooperatives in the Iasi region was increased from 61 in 1949 to 112 in 1950, as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>No in 1950</u>
Iasi and Codaesti rayons	48
Negresti Rayon	24
Pascani Rayon	14
Targul Frumos and Harlau rayons	26

The number of retail stores of the cooperatives likewise increased from 308 in 1949 to 519 in 1950.

Also established were 202 store committees to control the activities of the cooperatives.

By the end of 1950, the following production sections were associated with the village consumer cooperatives: 6 cartwheel makers, 6 lumber yards, 14 blacksmith shops, 4 basket-weaving shops, one shop for processing straw for mattresses, thatched roofs, brooms, etc., 8 mills, 4 cobbler shops, 3 tailor shops, 16 barber shops, and 5 small factories for making soda water.

Similarly, the number of storage houses belonging to cooperatives was higher in 1950 than in 1949:

<u>Type</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Timber	1	3
Salt	3	11
Cereals	5	9
Petroleum	3	6
Miscellaneous items	--	2

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Although the supply of manufactured goods to towns and villages in the Iasi region has been increasing, and the quantity of goods distributed through village consumer cooperatives has grown steadily every month, many deficiencies have been noted.

In many cases, goods were delivered in insufficient quantities. This is true of agricultural implements such as scythes, sickles, spades, and pitchforks; of textile articles such as heavy fabrics, peasant cloth jackets, heavy cotton cloth, coarse cloth, head veils, shawls, overcoats, and ready-made suits; of food products such as sugars, salted fish, rice, and barley; and of construction materials such as lime, timber, and brick.

The delivery of goods by suppliers was frequently performed in a manner contrary to the program of deliveries: i. e., goods frequently arrived only at the end of the yearly quarters, for which reason they were plentiful only at the end of the period while shortages occurred during the interim.

Goods delivered did not always meet seasonal demands. Thus, during the fourth quarter of 1951, certain cooperatives were short of heavy fabrics such as heavy cotton cloth, but were plentifully supplied with calico, for which there was insufficient demand at this time of the year.

In addition to the fact that goods frequently arrived late, the shipments were not always accompanied by invoices, which further delayed their delivery to village cooperatives.

Shipments of goods were frequently defective, arriving with broken wrappings, and often damaged in transit.

In certain instances, goods in little demand by the peasantry, such as men's garters, slips, and certain expensive types of imported cloth were delivered although they could not be readily sold.

Deficiencies were also observed in the commercial exploitation of agricultural products.

The working peasantry received, at low prices, manufactured products required for their livelihood, i. e., tools, fertilizers, etc., and were able to cultivate their land more effectively, obtaining larger quantities of produce, and, consequently, larger incomes. Peasants receive a large percentage of their goods through cooperatives. However, they are not making full use of cooperatives to sell their products. Thus, in 1950, peasants bought 67 percent more goods through cooperatives than they sold to the cooperatives.

Cooperatives must not only be agencies for supplying villages with manufactured goods, but must also acquire the surplus agricultural products of each peasant household and sell them through town markets, i. e., supply towns with agricultural products. The village cooperatives in the Iasi region have, thus far, acquired too few agricultural products.

The village cooperatives were unprepared for efficient procurement during 1949, the first year of their activity in this field. Because of the failure of the managements of the cooperatives to explain to the peasantry the exact nature of their work, most peasant producers sold only poor quality agricultural products through cooperatives, while the better products were sold directly in towns.

In 1950, as a result of experience gained during the previous year and the improved training of personnel, better results were obtained.

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In 1949, the cooperatives succeeded in procuring only limited supplies of agricultural products, but in 1950 they acquired not only surplus agricultural produce, but also certain fruits and vegetables, from which the cooperatives prepared sour cherry, apple, apricot, and prune preserves, prune marmalade, sour cherry juice, bouillon, dill pickles, tomatoes, wine and other items.

Likewise, better results were obtained during 1950 in contracting for the acquisition of animals from the peasantry.

An important achievement was the establishment of a center for selecting eggs and of two centers for conserving 1,500,000 eggs.

The chief difficulty encountered in procurement was the lack of transportation facilities. Thus, in October 1950, the absence of transportation facilities prevented cooperatives in the Iasi region from acquiring any potatoes, although the supply was plentiful.

The fact that the cooperatives did not have any transportation facilities of their own resulted in higher transportation costs and delays in acquiring the available supplies, thus retarding circulation of the products.

Procurement was further hampered by the lack of storage depots, and by the delay of the Iasi Union of Consumer Cooperatives in sending orders for existing stock. As a consequence, bottlenecks in procurement occurred frequently, and funds were unnecessarily blocked. Thus, at the end of the third quarter of 1950, the purchasing funds of the cooperatives were exhausted as a result of, on the one hand, the failure of Centrocop to issue orders for products in stock, and, on the other, the failure of customers of the cooperatives to pay for delivered products on time. Finally, funds were tied up in prepared products, such as fruit preserves, dill pickles and tomatoes, wine, etc.

Other difficulties in the procurement of agricultural products were caused by the activities of the kulaks who, in addition to attempting to prejudice the peasantry against selling their surplus products through cooperatives, also purchased agricultural products directly from the working peasantry and resold them in towns through speculators.

Likewise, speculators from towns came to villages and paid high prices for fowl, eggs, cereals, and other items. Some even used the barter system, thus undermining the working peasantry's confidence in the national currency.

Some of the difficulties encountered by the cooperatives in acquiring agricultural products were caused by certain commercial organizations, such as Comcar, Arolacta, and Aprozar, which, instead of collaborating with the cooperative movement, hampered its activities by paying higher prices, restricting the areas of activity of cooperatives, etc. Several of these state commercial procurement units gradually assumed the role of intermediaries between cooperatives and consumers, preventing the direct exchange of goods. For instance, cooperatives acquired cattle, pigs, vegetables, etc., sold them to Comcar or Aprozar which, in turn, resold them to the consumers.

Another aspect of the exchange of goods between town and village is the sale of products directly by producers to consumers in markets organized by local authorities. In the Iasi region, there are 22 regular markets and 13 weekly markets;

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<u>Location</u>	<u>Regular Markets</u>	<u>Weekly Markets</u>
Town of Iasi	5	1
Pascani Rayon	3	3
Iasi Rayon	5	-
Targul Frumos Rayon	2	2
Harlau Rayon	3	3
Negresti Rayon	3	2
Codăestî Rayon	1	2

In addition to these markets, six yearly fairs are held in the Iasi region, one in Targul Frumos, two in Negresti, and three in Pascani. These fairs take place in July, August or September and last an average of 9 days.

Agricultural products, cattle, pigs, fowl, and products of the peasant household industry such as wool, dresses, sandal leather, sandals, felt caps, hutches, spoons, spindles, rush mats, combs, etc., are brought to these markets. However, certain deficiencies have been observed at these markets and fairs. The most important fault is poor location, which forces producers to cross most of the town before reaching the market. This gives speculators an opportunity to lure the producers into their houses and buy most of the products before they reach the market. Markets should be located at the outskirts of towns and villages. Another deficiency is the lack of stands, counters, and weighing scales. Moreover, many markets are not fenced in.

Purchases at markets are made in the following proportion: 30 percent directly by consumers, approximately 40 percent by cooperatives, approximately 20 percent by state commercial enterprises, and approximately 10 percent by barter.

The virtual absence of small artisans at these fairs and markets is serious. Only a few artisan household products are in evidence. These are brought to the markets by various intermediaries and small businessmen.

To develop a large volume of trade between town and villages in the Iasi region in the course of the first Five-Year Plan, it is necessary to send increasingly larger quantities of manufactured goods to villages, thus assuring a more plentiful supply of agricultural products for the towns. The Five-Year Plan anticipates that by 1955 the quantity of manufactured goods delivered to villages will be 2.12 times as large as in 1950. To properly supply peasant cooperatives with manufactured goods demands the elimination of deficiencies connected with irregular supply, and also demands that the type of merchandise delivered be appropriate to the season and the specific needs of the peasant population.

An important step in this direction was the division of the country into regions. Prior to the new territorial-administrative division of the country, the former District Union of Consumer Cooperatives was in no position to know the specific needs of the hundreds of villages of the district. Goods shipped by factories arrived in the capital of the district where the depots of the district union were located. Afterward, the goods were reloaded and shipped to the cooperatives of the communes of the former district.

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Many of these communes were located at great distances from the district capital. Following the division of the territory of the RPR into counties, Unions of Rayon Consumer Cooperatives were established. Thus the distance between the farthest commune of the rayon and the rayon consumer cooperative never exceeds 20 kilometers. Consequently, manufactured goods are more readily delivered to the working peasantry; transportation charges, which used to raise the prices of the goods, have been lowered; and the rayon union is better acquainted with the needs of the peasantry.

Another task required for improving trade between town and village is better organization of procurement of peasant produce by village cooperatives. Payments should be made immediately without any red tape, and the purchased items should be shipped to towns as soon as possible. The division of the country into rayons has been of great aid in cooperative procurement. It facilitates the more rapid distribution of the agricultural products purchased by the cooperatives.

The activities of unions must be encouraged and they must acquire more personnel in the field of commercial exploitation of peasant produce. This personnel must accurately determine the agricultural and animal products which can be purchased in the rayon. The communal cooperatives must have experienced and qualified buyers, paid by fixed salary plus a bonus (based on the quality and quantity of his work) to serve as a stimulus for exceeding procurement norms for agricultural and animal products. The Regional Directorate of the Centrocoop must, through guidance and control, alter the attitude of many cooperative managements toward the commercial exploitation of peasant produce, an attitude characterized by negligence and nonchalance. Thus, in Negrestic Rayon, the managements of communal cooperatives displayed bureaucratic attitudes in their interpretation of the instructions of the Centrocoop and by their refusal to purchase hogs from certain working peasants, on the grounds that the animals did not meet the prescribed weight of 100 kilograms, although the differences in weight were negligible. Other cooperatives, through sheer laziness, refuse to purchase certain perishable items such as eggs, fresh fruit, etc. Employees of several communal cooperatives have embezzled produce.

The village cooperatives must aim to achieve the superior form of commercial exploitation of peasant produce: commercial exploitation through contracts. Contracts for the cultivation of industrial plants, essential for our industry, and for the raising of cattle, pigs, and fowl, which are needed by markets and industry, must be concluded. It is especially important that peasants from the poorer and intermediate strata of the peasant class be encouraged to conclude such contracts, and that advances in cash, materials, etc., be given to them.

Commercial exploitation on the contractual basis offers the consumer cooperatives an opportunity to play an important part in the planning of our national economy by expanding the scope of the state plan to include millions of individual, small or medium, peasant households, which can now be enrolled (in an organized manner) in the cultural plan established in accordance with the objectives of our First Five-Year Plan.

Producers, too, have much to gain by the conclusion of contractual engagements. They no longer need wander from place to place in order to sell their products, they are no longer robbed or cheated by kulaks and speculators, they no longer have to waste many days on the road, and there are no questions concerning prices, since these are established at the time when the contracts are concluded.

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Believing an adequate supply of vegetables for the working people to be of primary importance, the party and government have made a decision concerning a guaranteed supply of vegetables and their commercial exploitation. This decision established certain definite tasks for assuring a plentiful and cheap supply of these products to towns and workers' centers. In the struggle for the successful achievement of the plan for vegetables, the cooperative movement plays the principal part. It is entrusted with the task of convincing as many working peasants as possible to sell their produce through cooperatives, thus preventing the dishonest maneuvers of kulaks and speculators in the field of vegetable commerce. The appeal to the peasantry should be made even more attractive by the conclusion of contracts.

The activities of local industries must take place everywhere in an organized manner. The executive committee of the rayon and communal people's committees, guided by party organizations, must stimulate the creative initiative of the masses by making them understand the national importance of the establishment of local enterprises.

The people's committees must use and support the cooperative movement in the fulfillment of their task of assuring a plentiful labor force. In supporting the development of village cooperatives, the people's committees must facilitate their acquisition of depots, stores, and adequate transportation facilities, and must also make certain that the resources of the cooperatives are administered with the utmost care. Concurrently with the development of local industry, the people's committees must support the development of the sections of village consumer cooperatives entrusted with commercial exploitation of local resources, in order to assure their greatest efficiency.

The people's committees must also support the development of artisan cooperatives, and, at the same time, encourage the activities of private artisans in order to assure a supply of goods for the people. Artisan cooperatives must utilize, on an increasingly larger scale, local raw materials and remnants from state industrial enterprises.

The people's committees and cooperatives in fruit-producing regions, e.g., Iasi and Codaesti, must encourage all cooperatives to establish sections or units for drying fruit, making preserves, or preparing marmalades. In Targul Frumos, Pascani, and Harlau rayons, cooperatives should be encouraged to establish units for producing lime, pottery, baskets, and other items. Proper organization of these activities will effect production of more goods and a more abundant supply of commodities for the working people. At the same time, it will give the working peasantry an opportunity to earn more money and thus be able to buy, at low prices, the manufactured goods delivered to village cooperatives by industry.

The village cooperatives must be aided in organizing their work in a systematic manner. They must operate according to a well-timed plan prepared by the board of managers. Within the framework of this plan, each member of the board of managers must have a definite set of duties. The plan must determine the type of manufactured goods to be delivered to cooperatives, the manner in which the commercial exploitation of agricultural products is to take place, the place where the acquired products will be stored, the distribution of funds necessary for making purchases and for maintenance, and finally, the responsibilities for execution of all tasks outlined by the plan. If no concrete working plan is drawn up and observed, and if no concern is shown for the needs of the working peasantry, the peasants will lose interest in the cooperative movement and will be forced into the arms of kulaks and speculators. By taking advantage of the dissatisfaction of the poorer and intermediate strata of the peasantry, kulaks and speculators try to turn them away from the cooperative movement, in order to prevent the proper development of trade between town and village, and to weaken the politically significant alliance between the working class and the working peasantry.

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In their struggle for the fulfillment of the tasks entrusted to them, the work collectives of cooperatives must make extensive use of socialist competition. Among the goals set by the competition, the on-time delivery of goods, the struggle for improved commercial exploitation of agricultural products, the establishment of production sections, and the conclusion of contracts with vegetable growers must be of foremost importance.(4)

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